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time of Chaucer's birth (1340), it was, doubtless, found by some copyist among his papers, and if he had lived to complete the *Canterbury Tales*, we should, in all probability, have had it worked over and put into the mouth of the Yeoman, as Urry first suggested in his edition of Chaucer (1721), and Mr. Skeat concurs. The misnomer under which it appears in some editions of Chaucer, "The Cokes Tale of Gamelyn," is due to its position in the MSS immediately after the imperfect *Cook's Tale*, but Mr. Skeat says (p. xiv, note) that this title in the best MS, Harl. 7334, from which he prints, "is merely scribbled as a head-line to the pages in a much later hand than that of the original scribe." From three of the best MSS of the *Canterbury Tales*, and one other, it is omitted altogether, though it is found in at least ten MSS. The metre alone is sufficient to deny it to Chaucer, but the language also has a more archaic cast than his, and justifies the earlier date.

Mr. Skeat has provided an excellent Introduction, with notice of the grammar and metre, notes, and a glossary. The Tale belongs to the Robin Hood series, shows close connection with "A Poem on the Times of Edward II," assigned to about 1320, and was written probably not long after the poem. Its language resembles the later writings of Robert of Brunne, and it is a good representative of the East Midland dialect of that period. It has few Scandinavian words, not more than twenty, half of which occur in Chaucer, and not very many Norman-French words, about 160 in the 902 lines of the Tale.

It is valuable in literature from having supplied the prototype of Lodge's novel, "Euphuus' Golden Legacy," on which Shakspeare based his "As You Like It." Mr. Skeat gives a short sketch of the story as it appears in Lodge's novel, the latter part of which is unlike the Tale of Gamelyn. In respect to the metre Mr. Skeat finds seven types of the first half-line, three with three accents and four with four accents; and the second half-line usually has three accents. This arrangement seems objectionable; the line appears to be rather a derivative from the Anglo-Saxon long line, the first half-line containing two or three accents, and the second usually two, more than one unaccented syllable coming between the accented syllables. The rules for final *-e* apply here as in Chaucer, and the grammar is similar, though the inflexions are somewhat fuller. The book is well edited, and will further the study of Middle English, for promoting which we are already so much indebted to the Clarendon Press and its able editors.

J. M. GARNETT.

Jahresbericht über die Erscheinungen auf dem Gebiete der Germanischen Philologie. Herausgegeben von der Gesellschaft für Deutsche Philologie in Berlin. Sechster Jahrgang, 1884.

The second part of the sixth annual volume of the above work has just appeared, completing the volume. In addition to the sections heretofore included, one has been inserted on the Sixteenth Century, so that the work presents now a complete annual bibliography of all works, dissertations, periodical essays, and book-notices that appear in the department of Germanic philology to the 16th century inclusive. The present volume, with the Registers of Names and Subjects, comprises 418 pages, of which the section appropriated

to English covers 59 pages and 259 titles, embracing the following sub-sections: General Works, Lexicography, Phraseology, Etymology, Dialects, Scottish Text Society, History of Language and Grammar, Metre, History of Literature, Chrestomathies, Special Works: *a.* Old English, *b.* Middle English. This section is edited by Dr. J. Koch. In addition to the German journals, the Academy and the Athenaeum, and the American Journal of Philology have been examined for essays and book-notices, so that the bibliography may claim to be the most complete published, and can be cordially recommended to students of Germanic philology in all of its subdivisions.

To those who have not access to the German philological journals, it is very useful in giving a summary of what has been published, with a brief abstract of contents and of the opinions of reviewers.

The price too is moderate, being eight marks in the book-stores, but to members of the *Gesellschaft* the volume is sent for six marks, post-free. It aims to include all works that appear from one October to the next, and the MS of the present volume was closed May 12, 1885. The treasurer of the *Gesellschaft* is Karl Kinzel, Friedenau bei Berlin, to whom subscriptions should be sent.
J. M. GARNETT.

N. B.—Authors and publishers, especially in Germany, of dissertations and other works relating to English philology, who desire to have them noticed in the American Journal of Philology, are requested to send a copy to the editor of the Journal, Professor B. L. Gildersleeve, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, or to Professor J. M. Garnett, University of Virginia, Virginia, U. S. A.

Le Theatre D'Alexandre Hardy. Erster Neudruck der Dramen von Pierre Corneille's unmittelbarem Vorläufer nach den Exemplaren der Dresdener, Münchener und der Wolfenbütteler Bibliothek besorgt von E. STENGEL. 5 Bände, 8vo. Marburg, Elwert; Paris, Le Soudier, 1884.

In Vol. IV, p. 97 of this Journal, notice was taken of the *Sammlung Französischer Neudrucke*, edited by Prof. Karl Vollmöller of Göttingen, and the importance of the series was noted in view of the difficulty that Romance scholars generally experience in obtaining original editions of Middle-French authors. The timeliness of such reprints has been fully shown by the fact that several numbers of the Vollmöller publication have already received that attention from scholars which they deserve, considering the high esteem set on them, as literary creations, by contemporaries of their authors, and their present great value for purely linguistic purposes. When these monuments of the sixteenth century shall have become thus generally accessible to the student of language, we may expect light to be thrown on many of the puzzling problems of Modern French syntax and versification. The beginnings of Gallic speech have been for years the object of earnest investigation, and sufficient has already been done in this direction to give a survey of the most important laws that obtained in the historic development of this branch of the Neo-Latin idioms during the first transition period from the old to the new, from the fully synthetic to